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# Sen. Smith Readies New Kennedy Blast

(NEWS Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON—Sen. Margaret Chase Smith, R-Maine, plans to deliver a stinging denunciation of the Kennedy Administration's record in a speech tonight to more than 800 Republican women attending the tenth annual Spring conference.

Informed sources said it will be a "strong" speech—perhaps the

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most critical report yet made by any prominent Republican leader. These sources promised it will be "even more incisive" than her declaration last fall that Presi-

dent Kennedy had failed to "back up his eloquence with action".

### Little-Noticed Pattern

It apparently will follow a little-noticed pattern of criticism by the Maine senator which, when reviewed over the past year, shows her to be emerging as the sharpest GOP critic in the Senate and, possibly, the most effective. A national news magazine reported last fall that the President was angered by the Maine senator's blast and called her "ignorant."

Friends picture the Maine senator as unperturbed if she is getting under the President's skin. She is believed to be not at all happy with the failure of Republican leaders in Congress to

criticize Kennedy Administration mistakes and alleged failures.

Senator Smith did not work intimately with Kennedy when he was a senator, as did Republican Sen. Leverett Saltonstall of Massachusetts and some other GOP senators from New England. Their relations were not cold, but they were relatively at arm's length.

### Rockefeller Link?

Fuel to the fire is the fact that President Kennedy is reported to feel that the Maine senator is closely aligned with Gov. Nelson Rockefeller of New York who, the President has confided, will be the toughest GOP presidential candidate to beat in 1964. There is, in fact, renewed talk in Washington that Sen. Smith is receiving serious consideration in Republican inner circles as a possible vice presidential running mate with Rockefeller.

Mrs. Smith and Rockefeller had a private lunch here in January 1961 but there was no indication they talked about 1964. Rockefeller is scheduled to address the same GOP women's group at lunch on Tuesday.

Last summer, Senator Smith fired off a sharp telegram to the President accusing him of "playing politics with national defense" by channeling announcements of defense contracts from the White House to Democratic senators.

### Blocks Appointment.

On Aug. 24, the Maine senator annoyed the President again by fighting his appointment of Maj. Gene Hal Williams, state adjutant general of the West Virginia National Guard, for promotion to the rank of brigadier general in the U. S. Army Reserve. She persuaded every Republican to join her in an unsuccessful motion to recommit the nomination to the Armed Services Committee and picked up eight Democratic votes besides.

Later, GOP floor leader Everett Dirksen of Illinois congratulated her and asked what her formula was for "leadership" in corralling all the Republicans to go along with her.

Recently, Senator Smith lashed out at the Kennedy policy in Latin America and particularly his handling of the Cuban "fiasco." In a Bangor speech, which drew national attention, the Maine senator chastised GOP leaders for their defeatist attitude toward 1964 and declared that President Kennedy can be beaten if the party has a mind to do it.

### Calls CIA "Dumping Ground"

She was one of only two senators who voted against President Kennedy's nomination of John McCone to be director of the Central Intelligence. She said he wasn't "qualified" by experience—and his own admission—for the job. Last week, she delivered another blow by declaring that the CIA was being used as a "dumping ground" for the Kennedy campaign statements in 1960 about a "missile gap" which the new administration now says does not exist.

Her vote on McCone and attitude toward the CIA are now being blamed for the fact that she has been denied a seat on the Armed Services subcommittee which surveys the hush-hush CIA operations. Friends say Senator Saltonstall is blocking her from the second GOP post on the subcommittee, even though she is in line for it, because she broke ranks on McCone's confirmation.

Senator Smith is still waiting for Saltonstall, incidentally, to offer her the ranking GOP position on the Armed Services Committee. Saltonstall holds that spot on both this committee and the Appropriations Committee. He arranged with the late Sen. Styles Bridges, R-N. H., to have the Armed Services post. The Bay Stater has not offered to extend the precedent to Senator Smith.